(b) The backward districts have been identified on the basis of an index of backwardness for the Non-Special Category States and Assam. For the remaining Special Category States, the identification has been made on the recommendation of the State Government. The extremist affected districts covered under the scheme have been identified keeping in view the intensity of left wing extremist violence over a period of five years.

(c) Five districts of Orissa, namely, two backward districts o Keonjhar and Sundargarh and three extremist affected districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Mayurbhanj have been coverd under the sheme. The District Plans of Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts have been approved and the funds have already started flowing to these districts. The District Plans of Gajapati, Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts are to be considered for approval in the next meeting of the Empowered Committee on Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

Floating Seismic Monitoring Vessel

403. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government suggested Australia, USA, Japan and the UN for setting up of a floating seismic monitoring vessel;

(b) if so, the reaction from the above countries and the UN; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Australia and USA have expressed some reservation on this suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. No floating seismic monitoring vessels is proposed to be set up.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Early warning for Tsunami waves

†404. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Meteorological Department of India was aware of Tsunami in advance in Indian ocean on 25-26 December, 2004;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.